

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. APPM/008073.Y1/PPC/CMP/CKIM

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated January 12, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on April 12, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-25 and 30-38 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 1-25 and 30-38 stand rejected by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claims 1-25 and 30-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,544,892 B2 to Srinivasan et al. (Srinivasan) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,599,174 B1 to Spikes, Jr. (Spikes), on grounds that it would have been obvious to have a pre-polishing step in Srinivasan. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Srinivasan discloses a one step polishing method in which glycine is present in the polishing slurry. Srinivasan does not disclose a pre-polishing step or multiple polishing steps as the Examiner has stated.

Spikes discloses a two step polishing process. In the first polishing step, a slurry is provided to the polishing pad to remove material from a layer (see col. 8, l. 10-48). Thereafter, a second polishing process occurs. The second polishing process occurs substantially slurryless (col. 9, l. 1-19). There is no intention to have slurry present for the second polishing step. Spikes does not teach a pre-polishing step.

Modifying Srinivasan with Spikes as the Examiner suggested does not render the claims obvious. The Examiner has stated that the "Spikes, Jr. reference was cited and teaches that a pre-polish step during the planarization of a substrate with dielectric polishing layers, and during a polishing procedure with multiple polishing steps, is a known procedure in the art" (see page 4 of the final office action mailed January 12, 2006). Presumably, the Examiner is stating that rather than using the one step polishing process taught by Srinivasan, one of ordinary skill in the art, when confronted with Spikes, would perform the multiple step process taught by Spikes while using the amino acid in the polishing slurry taught by Srinivasan.

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Even assuming that the examiner is correct that one of ordinary skill in the art would change Srinivasan to a multi-step polishing process using the amino acid, the second polishing step would not have a polishing slurry as currently claimed. Additionally, no slurry would be provided before the second polishing step because Spikes explicitly teaches that the slurry is removed between polishing steps. Neither Srinivasan nor Spikes teach providing a polishing slurry prior to the second polishing step.

Srinivasan and Spikes together teach a two step polishing process in which the first polishing process would have an amino acid within the polishing slurry and a substantially slurryless second polishing step. Polishing slurry would not be provided to the surface after the first polishing step. Additionally, Srinivasan and Spikes do not teach a controller that is configured to cause a system to pre-polish, dispense a polishing composition having at least one organic compound, and chemical mechanical polish a layer.

Therefore, Srinivasan and Spikes, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest pre-polishing, dispensing a polishing composition having at least one organic compound, and chemical mechanical polishing, as recited in claims 1, 17, 30, and 33, and claims dependent thereon. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant further traverses the rejection of dependent claims 1-16, 18-25, 31, 32, and 34-37 on grounds that they depend from claims 1, 17, 30, and 33 which are believed to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed.

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Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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